

Brezhnev, Leonid

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Washington Whispers

Word from U.S. intelligence is that if Soviet boss Brezhnev comes to sign a SALT pact, as expected, he'll spend most of his time at Camp David to keep out of the view of cameras that would show how much he is ailing.

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Reports reaching the West tell of spreading warfare and chaos in Afghanistan involving Soviet advisers who help run the Marxist regime. Said one intelligence official: "The Soviets are evacuating coffins by air that presumably are not empty."

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The White House is being warned that several senators who oppose a new SALT pact have obtained secret studies suggesting the U.S. will have trouble verifying Soviet compliance and are waiting to spring them in debate over a new arms agreement.

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Key members of Congress now are more worried about the shortcomings of the CIA than they are about imposing new controls on its activities. Result: Legislation restricting CIA operations will be watered down, if not dropped entirely.

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Though old-timers at the CIA have accepted the fact that the agency is no longer as supersecret as it used to be, even jaundiced officials were taken aback when a request for data under the Freedom of Information Act was received from the Polish Embassy.

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~~ORIG SALT~~

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(Polish Embassy)